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**From:** Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/6/2017 5:32:15 PM  
**To:** Bohan, Suzanne [bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]; O'Connor, Darcy [oconnor.darcy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: UIC Program Actions

Please don't forward this email any further. Hopefully we will hear something this week, maybe even today. Deb

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**From:** Flynn, Mike  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 7:34 AM  
**To:** Shapiro, Mike <Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Connors, Sandra <Connors.Sandra@epa.gov>; Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Campbell, Ann <Campbell.Ann@epa.gov>; Grevatt, Peter <Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov>; Best-Wong, Benita <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>; Strauss, Alexis <Strauss.Alexis@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Thompkins, Anita <Thompkins.Anita@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: UIC Program Actions

Mike,

Thanks for the heads up, and to Deb and Alexis for including in your weekly reports. We will flag tomorrow but I don't see any issues with moving forward. We'll confirm with you tomorrow.

Mike

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**From:** Shapiro, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** Flynn, Mike  
**Cc:** Connors, Sandra; Hull, George; Campbell, Ann; Grevatt, Peter; Best-Wong, Benita; Strauss, Alexis; Thomas, Deb; Thompkins, Anita  
**Subject:** UIC Program Actions

Mike,

In their weekly reports both Alexis and Deb referred to Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program actions that they anticipate approving next week. We have been working with the Regions on these actions and concur with the Regions' decisions to move forward. Below is a brief description of the actions.

**Region 9 SDWA UIC Aquifer Exemptions:** As you know the underground injection control regulations allow EPA to exempt aquifers that do not currently serve as a source of drinking water and will not serve as a source of drinking water in the future, based on certain criteria. Aquifer exemptions allow these underground sources of water to be used by energy and mining companies for oil or mineral extraction or disposal purposes in compliance with EPA's UIC requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Region 9 is prepared to approve three (3) aquifer exemptions proposed by California for oil and gas projects in the state. The state has concluded that the aquifers in the 3 locations either don't currently serve as a source of drinking water or cannot now or will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water. As the Region indicated in their report to the Acting Administrator, they have been working closely with state on the analysis and are comfortable with the findings.

**Region 8 SDWA Proposed Permits and Aquifer Exemption:** Region 8 has prepared draft Class III and V UIC area permits and a proposed aquifer exemption to Powertech (USA) Inc. for a proposed uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) project in South Dakota. These permits will be the first EPA has directly issued for uranium recovery (EPA has primacy in SD). The permit requirements are intended to ensure adequate protection of underground sources of drinking water from fluid injection. Through consultation with EPA, several tribes have

raised concerns about potential impacts on historic properties of cultural importance. Following issuance of the draft permits, R8 will provide interested tribes and other stakeholders specific information about how the UIC permits propose to protect USDWs at the site. There will be a 60-day public comment period and four public informational events (including hearings) near the site to allow opportunity for tribes and other stakeholders to provide comments.

Mike

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